



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Wisconsin*

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October 6, 2006

**NEWS SUMMARY**

On Tuesday, October 3, 2006, a grand jury in the Eastern District of Wisconsin returned 19 indictments charging 19 separate individuals with multiple counts of mail fraud in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341 (up to 20 years' imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine per count) and making false statements to the Social Security Administration in violation of Title 42, United States Code, Section 1383a(a)(2) (up to 5 years' imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine per count).

Each of the defendants is alleged to have been receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for themselves and/or was the representative payee for one or more SSI beneficiaries. The indictments allege that each defendant (individually and independently from each other) devised and executed a similar "Double Check Negotiation" ("DCN") scheme to defraud the Social Security Administration (SSA). Specifically, the defendant would receive his/her original monthly SSI check in the mail; report to SSA that the check was not received and request a replacement check; SSA would send a replacement check; and the defendant would cash both checks, thereby receiving double the benefits to which he/she was entitled.

The defendants who were indicted are listed below, all of whom are Milwaukee or Racine area residents unless otherwise specified. The numbers after their names reflect the number of DCNs they are alleged to have conducted, and an approximate loss to the SSA. You will note that the approximate loss to SSA for these 19 defendants, in total, is over \$267,000.

Johnnie Mae Ashford (dob 4/22/66), 33 DCNs totaling over \$15,800  
Susan Janet Beck (dob 5/21/58), 45 DCNs totaling over \$21,800  
Lynette Marie Buckner (dob 4/29/63), 27 DCNs totaling over \$12,600  
Rufus Cole (dob 12/17/64), 17 DCNs totaling over \$8,400  
Mary Lee (dob 4/10/54), 27 DCNs totaling over \$12,400  
Brenda Hampton (dob 1/22/63), 64 DCNs totaling over \$30,400  
Norma Smith (dob 8/10/66), 26 DCNs totaling over \$13,000  
Barbara Hall (dob 4/17/62) (Green Bay), 26 DCNs totaling over \$10,700  
Virginia Miller (dob 3/14/61) (Green Bay), 30 DCNs totaling over \$11,800  
Janice Claybrooks (dob 12/25/69), 25 DCNs totaling over \$11,900  
Linda Coleman (dob 11/16/70), 32 DCNs totaling over \$16,000  
Nancy Dantzler (dob 7/4/59), 48 DCNs totaling over \$17,300  
Andrea Fonder (dob 1/25/74), 29 DCNs totaling over \$11,100

Patricia Johnson (dob 6/23/59) (Mississippi), 26 DCNs totaling over \$11,500  
Shanena Mason (dob 6/10/77), 29 DCNs totaling over \$14,100  
Andrew Cole (dob 1/22/66) (Missouri), 17 DCNs totaling over \$8,400  
Holly R. Bonds (dob 12/24/73), 15 DCNs totaling over \$6,000  
Debra K. Berry (dob 12/13/65), 19 DCNs totaling over \$9,300  
Clara Denson (dob 3/15/59), 60 DCNs totaling over \$25,600

The public is cautioned that an Indictment is a formal method of issuing charges and is not evidence of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until the government establishes guilt by proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

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For more information contact:  
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